

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1066

Introduced by Assembly Member Laird

February 23, 2007

An act to add Section 30523.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1066, as introduced, Laird. Coastal resources: local coastal programs.

(1) Existing law requires local governments lying, in whole or in part, within the coastal zone to prepare a local coastal program for submission for certification to the California Coastal Commission, in accordance with specified requirements.

This bill would require local governments, when preparing, adopting, and updating a local coastal program for certification by the commission to consider the impacts of climate change. The commission would be required to assist local governments in obtaining state and federal grant funds to help defray the costs associated with understanding, mitigating, and adapting to climate change impacts in their local coastal programs. Because the bill would increase the duties of local governments, it would thereby impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The California coast has witnessed persistent sea level rise
4 along its southern and central coast section and in San Francisco
5 Bay over the past century. Over 1,000 miles of open ocean coast
6 are potentially at risk from the impacts associated with global
7 warming.

8 (b) Assembly Bill 32 of the 2005–06 Regular Session established
9 the California Global Warming Solution Act of 2006. Assembly
10 Bill 32 states that global warming poses a serious threat to the
11 economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the
12 environment of California. The potential adverse impacts of global
13 warming include the exacerbation of air quality problems, a
14 reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the
15 Sierra Nevada snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the
16 displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences,
17 damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and
18 an increase in the incidences of infectious diseases, asthma, and
19 other human health-related problems.

20 (c) A recent study sponsored by the California Environmental
21 Protection Agency and conducted by the National Center for
22 Atmospheric Research (NCAR) surveyed federal, state, and local
23 coastal managers in California. The survey indicates that coastal
24 managers are aware of and concerned with the potential impacts
25 associated with climate change, but that the majority of coastal
26 managers are not addressing these impacts in their planning and
27 development decisions on the coast to date.

28 (d) According to the NCAR study, “The sobering conclusion
29 is that California is inadequately preparing for the impacts of
30 climate change on coastal areas at this time. Local governments
31 will need substantial support from state and federal agencies if the
32 level of preparedness for climate change and other
33 inundation-related risks is to be elevated in the future.”

34 SEC. 2. Section 30523.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,
35 to read:

1 30523.5. (a) A local government, when preparing, adopting,
2 and updating a local coastal program for certification by the
3 commission shall consider the impacts of climate change.

4 (b) The commission shall assist local governments in obtaining
5 state and federal grant funds to help defray the costs associated
6 with understanding, mitigating, and adapting to climate change
7 impacts in the local coastal program.

8 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
9 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
10 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
11 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
12 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.